Agreement under power production projects

†1090. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide any special financial support for small, medium and big power production projects by the State Electricity Board of Himachal Pradesh so that, the people of the State and the Officials of the Board could get more opportunities of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of agreement under power production projects being undertaken by NHPC or NTPC in Himachal Pradesh local people are not getting the employment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) State Electricity Board is under the State Government which supports the Board. For the projects being implemented by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and National Thermal Power Corporation in the State of Himachal Pradesh, employment to the local people is being provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Undertaking/Agreement signed by these Central Public Sector Undertakings with the Government of Himachal Pradesh/ Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.

Recruitment is done by the Central Public sector Undertakings under the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959 read with Rules notified by the Government from time to time. Under these rules, the Central Public Sector Undertakings notify the required vacancies of all such posts which fall under Group C and D to the concerned local employment exchanges and conduct the recruitment accordingly.

Power shortage in Punjab

1091. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab is facing acute power shortage; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to complete on-going power projects within stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the period April, 2005—January, 2006, the energy and peak shortage in Punjab was 8.6% and 20.3% respectively.

(b) The scheme for setting up of 2x250 MW Thermal Power Project is under construction at Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bhatinda in Punjab. The commissioning schedule of above two units is October, 2006 and January, 2007 respectively. Further, no hydro power project is under construction in the State. Construction of all the ongoing power projects including the aforesaid project is being vigorously monitored by Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority.

Power consumers in Delhi

1092. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average, 30 lakh billed power consumers in Delhi had paid about Rs. 5000/- this year for power that others have stolen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the billed consumers had to pay for guaranteeing a 16 per cent return on any investments private distributors make; and

(c) if so, who is responsible for putting the interests of innocent consumer at the whims and wishes of private power distribution companies and what safeguards would be initiated to check it?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The electricity sector in Delhi is a regulated business and it is governed by an independent regulator, Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC). The consumer is required to pay the charges for the consumption of electricity based upon the tariff approved by the DERC from time to time. While fixing tariff the level of Aggregate Technical & Commercial losses is also taken into consideration. In some of the pockets AT&C loss level is still more than 50%.

(b) As per the policy directions of Government of NCT of Delhi, 16% return on the issued and paid up capital and free reserves (excluding consumer contribution and revaluation reserves but including share premium and retained profits outstanding at the end of any particular